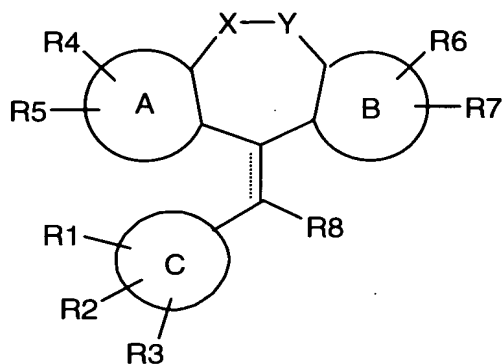


Amendments to Claims

Claims 1-121. (Cancelled)

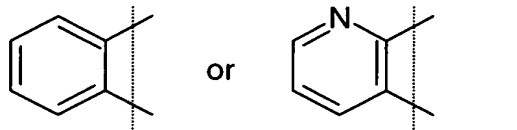
122. (New) A novel compound of Formula I:



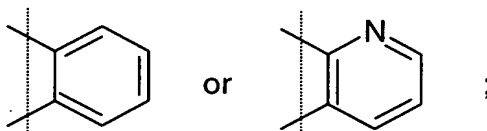
Formula I

wherein,

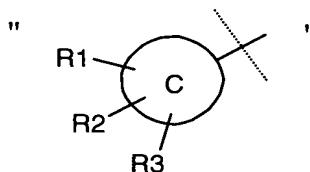
"A" represents



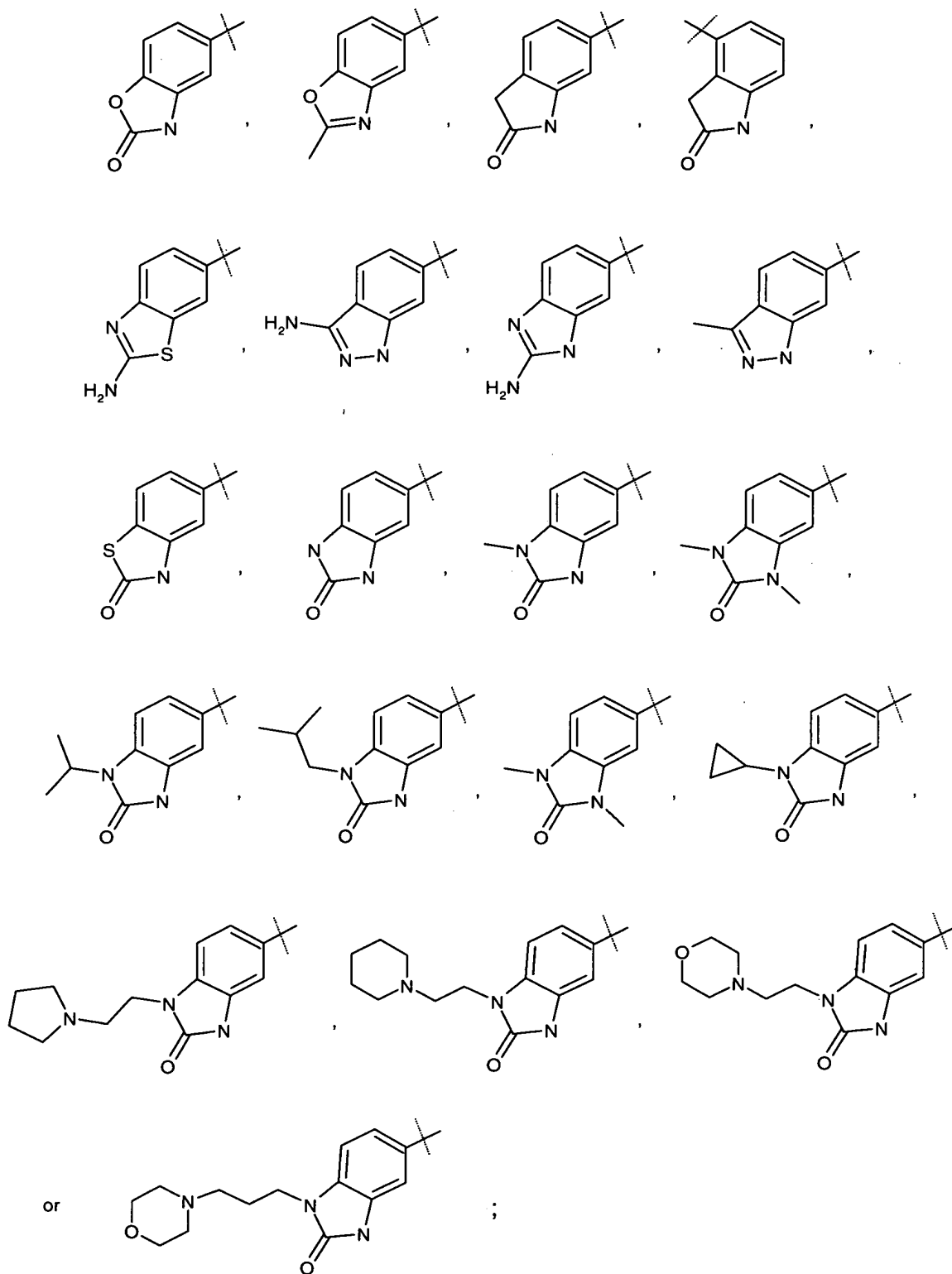
"B" represents



and



represents a benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent at at least one of R1-R3, wherein said benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent is given by the following:



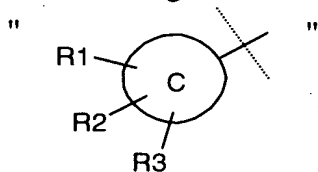
X and Y together represent $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$, or $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-$;

"-----" represents a double bond;

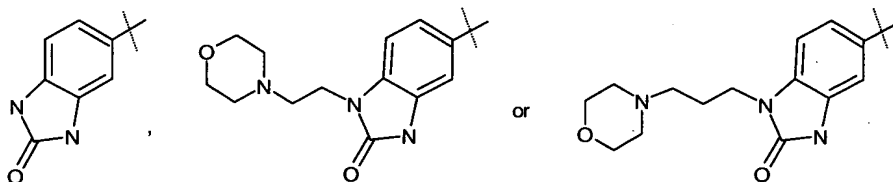
R^4 - R^7 each independently represent hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, or OR^{14} wherein R^{14} represents (C_1-C_4) alkyl-aryl, (C_1-C_4) alkyl-substituted aryl, (C_1-C_4) alkyl-heterocycle, or (C_1-C_4) alkyl- (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl ;

R^8 represents hydrogen, halo, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, hydroxymethyl, (C_1-C_4) alkyl - (C_1-C_6) alkoxy , or COR^{12} wherein R^{12} represents (C_1-C_6) alkoxy; (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl, phenyl, or substituted aryl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

123. (New) The compound according to Claim 122 wherein

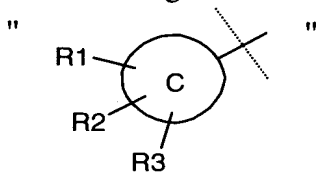


represents a benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent at at least one of R_1 - R_3 , wherein said benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent is given by the following:

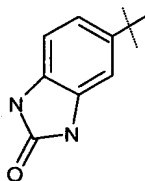


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

124. (New) The compound according to Claim 123 wherein



represents a benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent at at least one of R_1 - R_3 , wherein said benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent is given by the following



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

125. (New) The compound according Claim 122 wherein R^4 and R^6 each independently represent hydrogen, halo, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, or OR^{14} wherein R^{14} represents (C_1-C_4) alkyl-aryl, (C_1-C_4) alkyl-substituted aryl, (C_1-C_4) alkyl-heterocycle, or (C_1-C_4) alkyl- (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl..

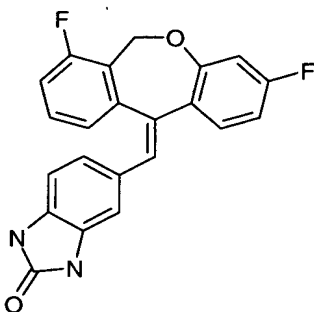
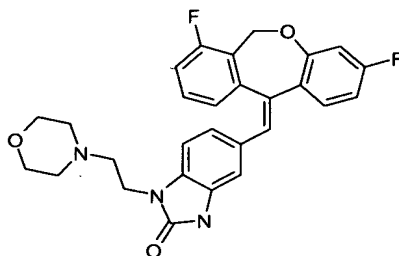
126. (New) The compound according Claim 122 wherein R^5 and R^7 each independently represent hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, or (C_1-C_6) alkoxy.

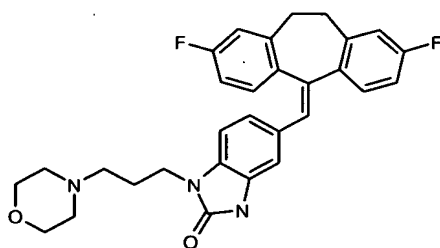
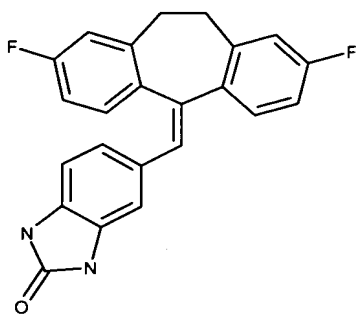
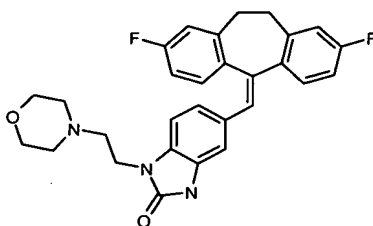
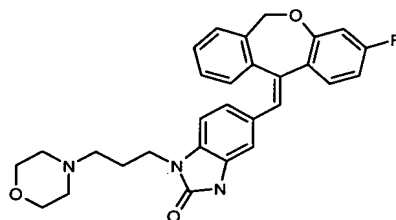
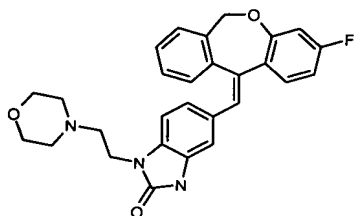
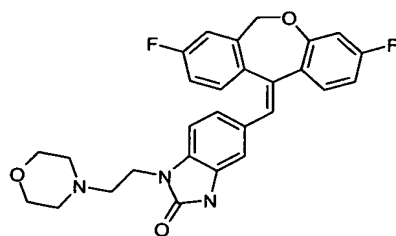
127. (New) The compound according to Claim 122 wherein R^8 represents hydrogen, halo, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_4) alkyl $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, or (C_3-C_7) cycloalkyl.

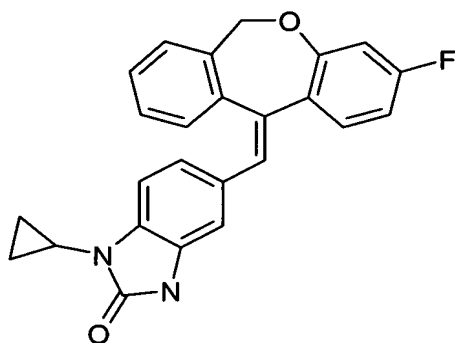
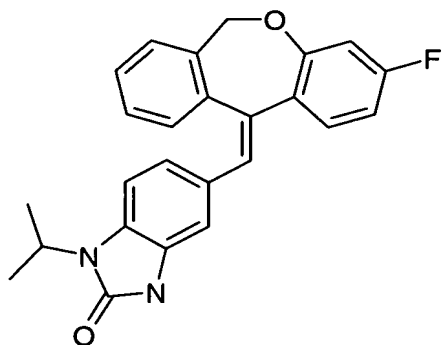
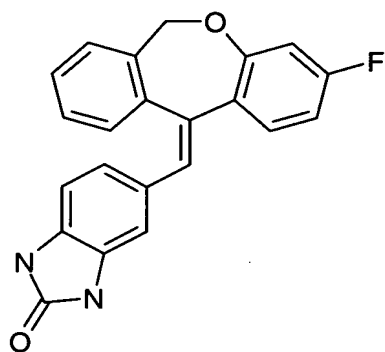
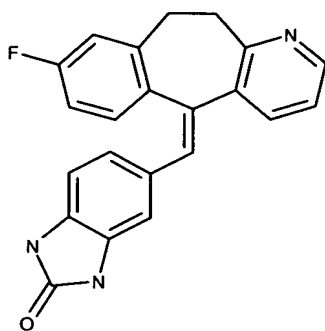
128. (New) The compound according to Claim 127 wherein R^8 represents halo, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, or (C_1-C_4) alkyl $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy.

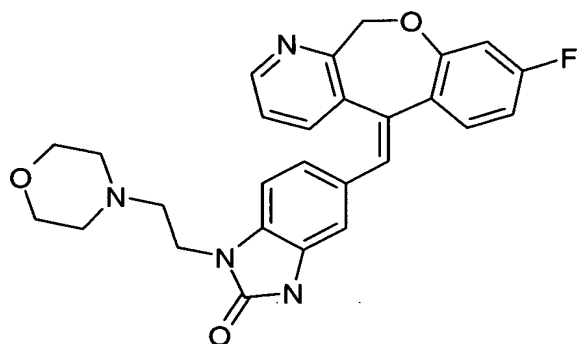
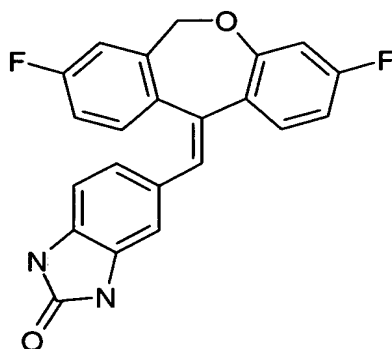
129. (New) The compound according to Claim 127 wherein R^8 represents hydrogen.

130. (New) The compound according to Claim 122 which is selected from the group consisting of

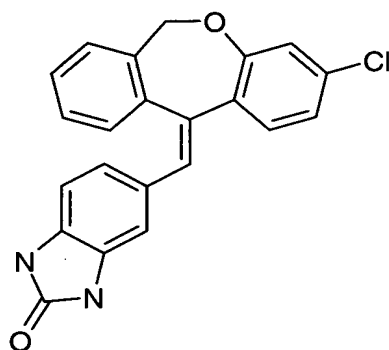






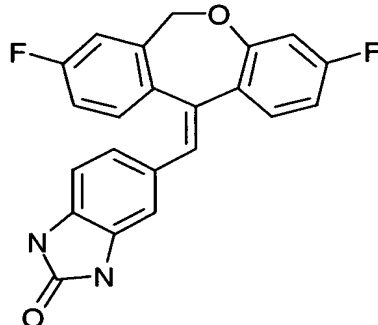


, and



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

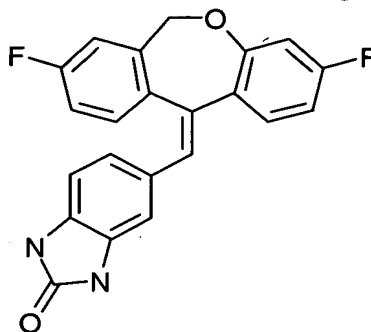
131. (New) A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

132. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula I according to Claim 122 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

133. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula

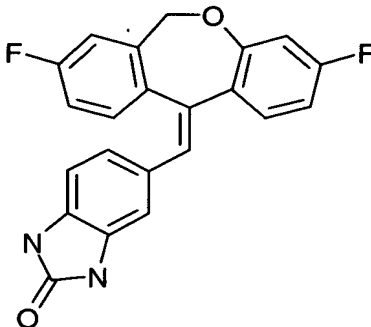


in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

134. (New) A method for the treatment of diastolic or systolic congestive heart failure comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound according to Claim 122.

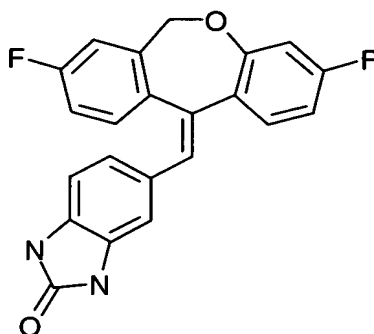
135. (New) A method for the treatment for the treatment of hypertension comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound according to Claim 122.

136.(New) A method for the treatment of diastolic or systolic congestive heart failure comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

137. (New) A method for the treatment of hypertension comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.